

REMARKS

The Examiner has asserted a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, requiring restriction of the application to one of the following claim groups:

Group I including claims 1-7;

Group II including claims 8 and 9;

Group III including claim 10;

Group IV including claims 11-28; and

Group V including claims 29-31.

The Examiner alleges that the inventions of Groups I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept (citing PCT Rule 13.1). The Examiner alleges that the inventions of Groups I-V lack the same or corresponding special technical features and further specifies each alleged special technical feature of each group of claims.

Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner that Groups I-V are distinct inventions, Applicant hereby elects Group I including claims 1-7 for prosecution in this application. Applicant has elected Group I in order to expedite prosecution of this application, so that claims 8-31 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice. Claims 1-7 (1 independent claim and 7 total claims) remain pending in the application. The foregoing amendment conforms this application to the restriction requirement contained in the Office Action dated January 7, 2004. The foregoing election is made without waiver, estoppel, or prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

The undersigned would welcome a telephone call at the telephone number listed below if such would advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: S. Shahpar 2-3-04
Shahpar Shahpar
Reg. No. 45,875

SNELL & WILMER, L.L.P.
One Arizona Center
400 East Van Buren
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2202
Phone: (602) 382-6306
Fax: (602) 382-6070
Email: sshahpar@swlaw.com